What is claimed is:

1. A digital content distribution control method comprising:

a digital content manipulating process for encoding digital content by use of a content key specified for each digital content and compressing the encoded digital content;

a content transmitting process for transmitting the manipulated digital content upon request from a portable terminal of another party of communication for transmitting said manipulated digital content;

a content key transmitting process for encoding a content key for decoding said manipulated digital content and transmitting the encoded content key upon request from said portable terminal of said another party of communication for transmitting said encoded content key;

a billing information transmitting process for encoding billing information that is decremented every time said manipulated digital content is decoded and transmitting the encoded billing information upon request from said portable terminal of said another party of communication for transmitting said encoded billing information;

a content use information receiving process for

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receiving encoded content use information sent from said
portable terminal of said another party of communication
and decoding said encoded content use information; and

a fee distributing process for distributing a fee
collected based on said content use information to a
proprietor of said digital content.

2. A digital content distribution control method
as claimed in claim 1, wherein said content key is a common
key.

3. A digital content distribution control method
as claimed in claim 1, wherein said content key is encoded
by use of a public key of said another party of
communication.

4. A digital content distribution control method
as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a common-key
decoding process for receiving an encoded common key
transmitted from said portable terminal of said another
party of communication and decoding the received encoded
common key.

5. A digital content distribution control method

as claimed in claim 4, wherein said common key is a session key.

6. A digital content distribution control method as claimed in claim 4, wherein, in said billing information transmitting process, billing information is encoded by use of the decoded common key.

7. A digital content distribution control method as claimed in claim 4, wherein, in said content use information receiving process, said common key is used for decoding said encoded content use information.

8. A digital content distribution control method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in said content use information receiving process, said encoded content use information is received that is transmitted from said another party of communication upon request from the same for transmitting said billing information.

9. A digital content distribution control method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, in said billing information transmitting process, information indicative of a content use condition is transmitted along with said billing

information.

10. A digital content reproducing method comprising:

a content receiving process for receiving digital content manipulated by encoding and compression and storing the received content;

a content key request information generating process for generating content key request information for requesting a content key necessary for decoding said manipulated digital content;

a content key request information transmitting process for encoding said content key request information and transmitting the encoded content key request information;

a content key receiving process for receiving said content key transmitted upon the request for said content key;

a content key decoding process for decoding encryption performed on said content key;

a content key storing process for storing said encoded content key or said content key after decoding;

a content decoding process for decoding said manipulated digital content by use of said content key;

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a billing information request information
generating process for generating billing information
request information for requesting billing information that
is decremented every time said manipulated digital content
is decoded;

a billing information request information
transmitting process for encoding said billing information
request information and transmitting the encoded billing
information request information;

a billing information receiving process for
receiving the billing information transmitted upon request
for said billing information, decoding encryption performed
on said billing information, and storing the decoded
billing information;

a content decompressing process for decompressing
said manipulated digital content;

a content use information storing process for
generating content use information according to decoding of
said manipulated digital content and storing the generated
content use information; and

a content use information transmitting process for
encoding said content use information and transmitting the
encoded content use information;

wherein each of these processes is processed inside

a single portable terminal.

11.   A digital content reproducing method as claimed in claim 10, wherein, in said content use information storing process, a balance of the stored billing information is confirmed, said stored billing information is decremented according to decoding of said manipulated digital content, and digital content use information at least including a decremented amount of said billing information is generated.

12.   A digital content reproducing method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a digital-to-analog converting process for converting the decoded and decompressed digital content into an analog signal.

13.   A digital content reproducing method as claimed in claim 10, wherein, in said content receiving process, said manipulated digital content is stored in an external storage medium.

14.   A digital content reproducing method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said content key is a common key.

15. A digital content reproducing method as claimed in claim 10, wherein, in said content key decoding process, said content key is decoded by use of a unique secret key.

16. A digital content reproducing method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a common-key transmitting process for generating a common key, encoding the generated common key, and transmitting the encoded common key.

17. A digital content reproducing method as claimed in claim 16, wherein, in said common-key transmitting process, a session key is generated as said common key.

18. A digital content reproducing method as claimed in claim 16, wherein, in said billing information request information transmitting process, said billing information request information is encoded by use of said common key.

19. A digital content reproducing method as

claimed in claim 16, wherein, in said content use information transmitting process, said content use information is encoded by use of said common key.

20. A digital content reproducing method as claimed in claim 10, wherein, in said content use information transmitting process, said encoded content use information is transmitted upon request for said billing information by said billing information request information generating process.

21. A digital content reproducing method as claimed in claim 10, wherein, in said billing information receiving process, information indicative of a use condition of encoded content transmitted along with said billing information is also received.

22. A digital content reproducing apparatus comprising:

a data communication means for performing data communication;

a content storage control means for receiving digital content manipulated by encoding and compression and storing said digital content into a storage medium;

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a content key decoding means for decoding an encoded content key;

a content key storing means for storing said encoded content key or the content key after decoding;

a content decoding means for decoding said manipulated digital content by use of said content key;

a billing information decoding means for decoding encryption performed on billing information that is decremented every time said manipulated digital content is decoded;

a billing information storing means for storing the decoded billing information;

a content decompressing means for decompressing said manipulated digital content;

a content use information generating means for generating content use information according to decoding of said manipulated digital content;

a content use information storing means for storing said content use information; and

a content use information encoding means for encoding said content use information;

wherein each of these means is provided inside a single portable terminal.

23. A digital content reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 22, further comprising:

a content key request information encoding means for encoding content key request information for requesting a content key necessary for decoding said manipulated digital content; and

a billing information request information encoding means for encoding billing information request information for requesting billing information that is decremented every time said manipulated digital content is decoded.

24. A digital content reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said content use information generating means confirms a balance of the billing information stored in said billing information storing means, decrements the stored billing information according to decoding of said manipulated digital content, and generates the content use information at least including a decremented amount of said billing information.

25. A digital content reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 22, further comprising:

a digital-to-analog converting means for converting said decoded and decompressed digital content into an

analog signal.

26.   A digital content reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said content storage control means stores said manipulated digital content into an external storage medium.

27.   A digital content reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said content key is a common key.

28.   A digital content reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 22, further comprising:

a unique-key storing means for storing a key unique to the apparatus;

wherein, in said content key decoding means, said encoded content key is decoded by use of the apparatus-unique secret key stored in said unique-key storing means.

29.   A digital content reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 22, further comprising:

a common-key generating means for generating a common key; and

a common-key encoding means for encoding said

common key.

30. A digital content reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein said common-key generating means generates a session key as said common key.

31. A digital content reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein said billing information decoding means decodes said billing information by use of said common key.

32. A digital content reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 29, wherein said content use information encoding means encodes said content use information by use of said common key.

33. A digital content reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said content use information encoding means encodes said content use information when said billing information request information is encoded by said billing information request information encoding means.

34. A digital content reproducing apparatus as

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claimed in claim 22, wherein, in said billing information decoding means, information indicative of a use condition of·content encoded along with said billing information is also decoded.

35. A digital content reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said digital content reproducing apparatus is portable.

36. A digital content reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said digital content reproducing apparatus is shaped like a card.

37. A digital content reproducing apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said digital content reproducing apparatus is implemented by an integrated circuit.